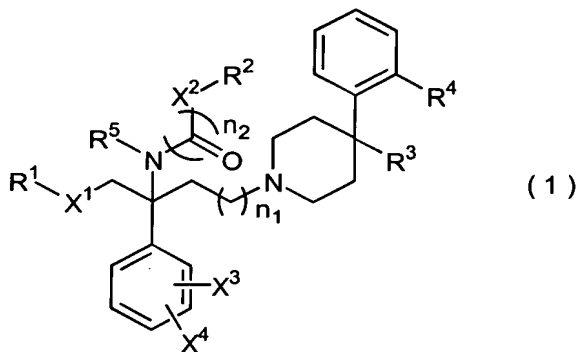


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A benzylamine ~~derivative~~ or its salt represented by formula (1):



[wherein X¹ represents -N(CH₃)-, -NH-, or -O-;

X² represents a single bond, -NH-, an amido bond, an ester bond, -O-, -S-, or -CO-;

each of X³ and X⁴ represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

R¹ represents a hydrogen atom; a lower alkyl group; a phenyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms or cyano groups; a benzyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 3 lower alkyl groups, cyano groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, or lower alkoxy groups; a benzoyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 3 lower alkyl groups, hydroxyl groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, or lower alkoxy groups; a lower alkanoyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 5 halogen atoms, amino groups, or carbamoyl groups; a hydroxyl group; a carbamoyl group; a lower alkylsulfonyl group; a lower alkoxy-carbonyl-lower alkyl group; a thienylcarbonyl group; a pyridylcarbonyl group; a lower alkylcarbonyl group; or a phenoxycarbonyl group[()];

R² represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a C3-C7 cycloalkyl group, a C6-C14 cycloalkyl-alkyl group, a C6-C14 aryl group, a C6-C14 aryloxy group, a C6-C14 aryloxy-lower alkyl group, C6-C14 arylthio-

lower alkyl group, a C7-C16 aralkyl group, a lower alkoxy-carbonyl-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group, an amino-lower alkyl group, a C7-C16 aralkyl group substituted by a C3-C7 cycloalkyl group, a halogeno(lower alkyl)carbonyl group, an indanyl group, a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalenyl group, a xanthenyl group, a piperidinyl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a morpholino group, a tetrahydroisoquinolyl group, an indolyl group, a chromenyl group, an isobenzofuranyl group, a tetrahydropyranyl group, a benzothienyl group, an adamantyl group, an adamantyl(lower alkyl) group, a fluorenyl group, a fluorenyl(lower alkyl) group, a pyridyl(lower alkyl) group, or an amino group which may be substituted by a phenyl group or a lower alkyl group [()] wherein a ring hydrogen of these group may be substituted by 1 to 5 atoms or groups selected from among a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a nitro group, an oxo group, a halogeno(lower alkyl) group, a C6-C14 aryl group, and a lower alkylamino group;

when R^3 represents a (lower alkanoyl)amino group, an amino(lower alkanoyl) group, an amino(lower alkanoyl)amino group, a di(lower alkyl)carbamoylamino group, or a C7-C16 aralkyloxy(lower alkyl) group, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom; or R^3 and R^4 may together form $-SOCH_2-$, $-SO_2CH_2-$, $-NHCOCH_2-$, $-CH(OH)CH_2-$, $-OCH_2-$, or $-C(=NOH)CH_2-$; R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group; n_1 is 1 or 2; and n_2 is 0 or 1] ~~or a salt thereof.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The benzylamine ~~derivative~~ or its salt of a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein R^3 and R^4 together form $-SOCH_2-$, $-SO_2CH_2-$, $-NHCOCH_2-$, $-CH(OH)CH_2-$, $-OCH_2-$, or $-C(=NOH)CH_2-$.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The benzylamine ~~derivative~~ or its salt of a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X^1 is $-N(CH_3)-$ or $-O-$.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The benzylamine or its salt of derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X² is a single bond, -NH-, an amido bond, an ester bond, -O-, or -CO-.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The benzylamine ~~derivative~~ or its salt of claim 1 a ~~salt thereof according to claim 1~~, wherein R² is a C7-C16 aralkyl group, a lower alkyl group, a C6-C14 aryl group, a C3-C7 cycloalkyl group, or an amino group which is optionally substituted by a phenyl group or a lower alkyl group.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A composition comprising the benzylamine or its salt of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier ~~drug containing, as an active ingredient, a benzylamine derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1.~~

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition comprising containing ~~[[a]] the benzylamine or its salt of claim 1 derivative or a salt thereof according to claim 1,~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method for producing ~~drug containing a a~~ benzylamine ~~derivative or a salt thereof according to~~ or its salt of formula (1-a) or formula (1-b), comprising

protecting the amino group of a compound of formula (12) to give a compound of formula (13),

oxidizing and N-methylating the compound of formula (13) to give a compound of formula (14),

acylating the compound of formula (14) to produce an intermediate of formula (15),
oxidizing the alkene of the intermediate of formula (15) to produce an aldehyde,
wherein the terminal carbon of the alkene is lost in the oxidation, and,
reductively aminating the aldehyde with either the amine of formula (16) or the amine
of formula (18) to produce, respectively, either the intermediate of formula (17) or the
intermediate of formula (19), and

deprotecting either the intermediate of formula (17) or the intermediate of formula
(19), followed by reacting the deprotected compound with an active carbonyl species to
produce the compound of either formula (1-a) or formula (1-b),

wherein X^2 represents a single bond, -NH-, an amido bond, an ester bond, -O-, -S-, or
-CO-;

wherein each of X^3 and X^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;

wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom; a lower alkyl group; a phenyl group which
may be substituted by 1 to 3 halogen atoms or cyano groups; a benzyl group which may be
substituted by 1 to 3 lower alkyl groups, cyano groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, or
lower alkoxy groups; a benzoyl group which may be substituted by 1 to 3 lower alkyl groups,
hydroxyl groups, halogeno(lower alkyl) groups, or lower alkoxy groups; a lower alkanoyl
group which may be substituted by 1 to 5 halogen atoms, amino groups, or carbamoyl
groups; a hydroxyl group; a carbamoyl group; a lower alkylsulfonyl group; a lower
alkoxycarbonyl-lower alkyl group; a thienylcarbonyl group; a pyridylcarbonyl group; a lower
alkylcarbonyl group; or a phenoxycarbonyl group[()];

wherein R^2 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkenyl group, a
lower alkylsulfonyl group, a C3-C7 cycloalkyl group, a C6-C14 cycloalkyl-alkyl group, a
C6-C14 aryl group, a C6-C14 aryloxy group, a C6-C14 aryloxy-lower alkyl group, C6-C14

arylthio-lower alkyl group, a C7-C16 aralkyl group, a lower alkoxy-carbonyl-lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy-lower alkyl group, an amino-lower alkyl group, a C7-C16 aralkyl group substituted by a C3-C7 cycloalkyl group, a halogeno(lower alkyl)carbonyl group, an indanyl group, a 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalenyl group, a xanthenyl group, a piperidinyl group, a pyrrolidinyl group, a morpholino group, a tetrahydroisoquinolyl group, an indolyl group, a chromenyl group, an isobenzofuranyl group, a tetrahydropyranyl group, a benzothienyl group, an adamantyl group, an adamantyl(lower alkyl) group, a fluorenyl group, a fluorenyl(lower alkyl) group, a pyridyl(lower alkyl) group, or an amino group which may be substituted by a phenyl group or a lower alkyl group [()]wherein a ring hydrogen of these group may be substituted by 1 to 5 atoms or groups selected from among a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a nitro group, an oxo group, a halogeno(lower alkyl) group, a C6-C14 aryl group, and a lower alkylamino group; and

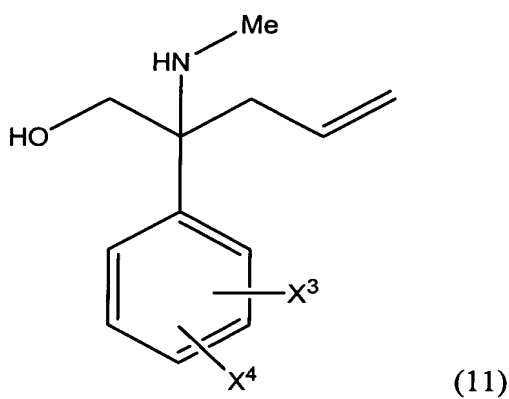
wherein R₆ is a protecting group



Claim 10 (New): The method of Claim 8, wherein the compound of formula (1-a) is produced.

Claim 11 (New): The method of Claim 8, wherein the compound of formula (1-b) is produced.

Claim 12 (New): An intermediate of formula (11),



wherein each of X^3 and X^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom.